

Statistics

Population (2003)

Illinois:	10,962,833	metro	(4.5% of total U.S. metro)
	<u>1,690,711</u>	non-metro	(3.4% of total U.S. non-metro)
	12,653,544	total	

United States:	241,395,996	metro	
	<u>49,413,781</u>	non-metro	
	290,809,777	total	

Farm-Related Employment (2000)

Illinois:	1,076,114 jobs	(14.3% of total Illinois employment)
United States:	25,834,574 jobs	(15.6% of total U.S. employment)

Number of Farms (2002)

Illinois:	73,027	(3.4% of total U.S. farms)
United States:	2,128,982	

Average Farm Size (2002)

Illinois:	374 acres
United States:	441 acres

Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold (2002)

Illinois:	\$7.7 billion
United States:	\$200.6 billion

Rank among all States in market value of agricultural products sold (2002): #7

Top 5 Agricultural Commodities (2002)

Commodity	Value of receipts (thousand \$)	Percent of U.S. value
Corn	3,106,217	17.8
Soybeans	2,256,267	16.7
Hogs	722,241	7.5
Cattle and calves	505,762	1.3
Greenhouse/nursery	254,581	1.8

Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold Directly to Consumers (2002)

Illinois: \$12.3 million
United States: \$550.9 million

Farmers Markets (2004)

Illinois: 149
United States: 3,617

Market Value of Certified Organic Commodities (2002)*

Illinois: \$1.8 million
United States: \$392.8 million

*(Data may not reflect actual industry growth after Oct. 2002 implementation of USDA National Organic Program.)

Certified Organic Acreage (2001)

Illinois: 21,324 acres
United States: 2,343,857 acres

USDA-Accredited Organic Certifying Agents (2005)

Based in Illinois: 0
Total: 96

Marketing Products and Services

Specific to Illinois

AMS Meets with Delegation from Illinois Farm Bureau

Twenty representatives from the Illinois Farm Bureau met with AMS in October 2004 to discuss AMS resources to help farmers market their products directly to consumers.

AMS Helps Lincolnshire Meat Processor with Exports

Representatives of Duerson Foods, a minority-owned meat processing company, met with AMS

and the Foreign Agricultural Service in October 2003 to discuss how AMS services could help their company export food products. Duerson expressed an interest in AMS's Project: United Exports and the possibility of minority farmers becoming suppliers for Duerson Foods. Project: United Exports seeks to help small farmers export their products to overseas markets,

Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program (FSMIP) Grants

FSMIP provides matching funds to State Departments of Agriculture and other appropriate State agencies to assist in exploring new market opportunities for food and agricultural products, and to encourage research and innovation aimed at improving the efficiency and performance of the marketing system.

- In 2003, \$72,650 was awarded to the Illinois Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with Sustain, a Chicago-based public interest group, to determine the infrastructure and resources needed to support the growth and maintenance of an Illinois-based organic distribution system.

Regional Interest

Illinois Participates in Food Policy Conference

Illinois was a participant in the third annual Iowa Food Policy Conference at Drake University in Des Moines, IA, in September, 2004. The theme of the conference was The Role of Farmers Markets in America's Food System. The conference consisted of workshops, panel discussions, and reports presented by representatives of a multi-state partnership, to provide consultation, training, and information for traditionally underserved farmers, with a focus on producers of specialty crops. Participants are from Arizona, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Utah, and Washington.

General Interest

New Farm-to-School Marketing Publication

Eat Smart—Farm Fresh! A Guide to Buying and Serving Locally-Grown Produce in School Meals (PDF) was published in December 2005 by the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) of USDA. The publication, which helps school lunch programs find locally-grown produce, was developed by a multiagency task force that included an agricultural marketing specialist from AMS, four child nutrition specialists from FNS, and the Community Food Security Coalition, a non-profit organization.

Farm-to-School Report

How Local Farmers and School Food Service Buyers Are Building Alliances (PDF) helps small farmers and school food service buyers explore how they might establish direct marketing linkages.

Marketing via the Internet

How to Direct Market Farm Products on the Internet (PDF) is designed to help small/medium-sized agricultural producers better develop Internet-based sales transactions by recommending effective methods for reaching and retaining customers.

Trends in Farmers Markets

U.S. Farmers Markets—2000: A Study of Emerging Trends (PDF) assesses the importance of farmers markets as a distribution channel for farm products, documents the recent growth in farmers markets operations, and provides an updated profile of management, operations, and merchandising at farmers markets.

Market Research on Small Meat Processors

Enhancing Commercial Food Service Sales by Small Meat Processing Firms (PDF), published by AMS in cooperation with Texas A&M University, determines potential areas of competitive advantage for smaller scale meat manufacturing firms in supplying local restaurants and other local commercial food service accounts.